

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 AID-05

IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /083 W  
----- 049766

O P 121324Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7390

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

USUN NY PRIORITY 391

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, GB

SUBJ: GOG RECOGNITION OF MPLA REGIME

REF: PARIS 94213 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: POLITICAL BUREAU OF PDG (GABONESE SINGLE PARTY) MET FEB. 11 AND "RECOMMENDED" THAT GOG RECOGNIZE MPLA REGIME IN ANGOLA.

2. IN COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING MEETING, PDG SPOKESMAN RECALLED GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF NEUTRALITY, EFFORT TO SOLVE CONFLICT, ANDNSMPORTANCE OF CONSOLIDATING NATIONAL  
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UNITY IN ANGOLA, WHICH HAD CONSISTENTLY INSPIRED GOG

POLICY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PRINCIPLES, GOG HAD ASSISTED ALL 3 LIBERATION MOVEMENTS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE AND HAD ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO END CONFLICT IN MONTHS. IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR CHANGES IN SITUATION, PDG NOW THOUGHT IT BEST FOR GOG TO RECOGNIZE NETO REGIMISM.

8. GOG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SCHEDULED TO MEET LATER TODAY (FEB. 12), AT WHICH TIME IT WILL PRESUMABLY ACT ON POLITICAL BUREAU RECOMMENDATION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: IN DISCUSSION THIS MORNING OF GOG DECISION, MINISTER/PRESIDENCY SYC CONQUET EXPLAINED RECOGNITION WOULD MEANS OF CONTRIBUTING TOWARD END OF CONFLICT AND KILLING IN ANGOLA. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE CONTENDED THAT MILITARY OUTCOMES NO LONGER APPEARED IN DOUBT, SO THAT CONTINUED ARMED STRUGGLE COULD PRODUCE ONLY ADDITIONALLY DEATHS BUT NO CHANGE FINAL RESULT. IN CONSEQUENCE, HE FELT WISEST COURSE WAS TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE AND RECOGNIZE MPLA IN HOPE THAT SUCH ACTION COULD HELP BRING AN END TO ANGOLA CARNAGE.

5. COMMENT: BONGO ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARIS (REFEL) FOLLOWED TWO DAYS HIS DECLARATION TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL IN FRANCE THAT GOG RECOGNIZED "ANGOLA", BUT THAT "THERE IS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANGOLA AND NETO GOVERNMENT." RECOGNITION DECISION ALSO CONTRADICTS ASSURANCES GIVEN ME FEB. 9 BY FONMIN OKUMBA (LIBREVILLE 0253) THAT GOG POLICY REMAINED UNCHANGED.

6. THUS, DESPITE PRIOR EVIDENCE THAT BONGO WAS BEGINNING TO HEDGE HIS BETS (LIBREVILLE 226 NOTAL) AND LOCAL RUMORS THAT POLICY CHANGE WAS IN THE OFFING, TIMING OF GOG DECISION SUGGESTS THAT BONGO WAS FINALLY INFLUENCED BY SOMETHING IN PARIS CONVERSATIONS DURING PAST FEW DAYS -- PERHAPS WORD THAT GOG SUPPORT FOR FNLA/UNITA FLAGGING OR INDICATION MENTIONED REFTEL THAT IVORY COAST AND POSSIBLY OTHERS MOVING TOWARD RECOGNITION OF MPLAMV. OAME JUSTIFICATION FROM CONQUET AND VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF JUSTIFICATION IN PDG POLIT BUREAU COMMUNIQUE ALSO SUGGEST

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THAT SHIFT CAME DIRECTLY FROM PRESIDENT, AND CAUGHT MINISTERS HERE SOMEWHAT OFF BALANCE.

7. IN ABSENCE BOTH PRESIDENT AND FONMIN (LATTER VACATIONING IN INTERIOR), WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET INSIDE STORY FOR SOME TIME, BUT WILL SEEK EX POST FACTO EXPLANATION FROM ONE OR BOTH FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN. FROM PRESIDENT AT LEAST, SUCH EXPLANATION SURE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY RENEWED PLEA

FOR US ARMS AID, NEED FOR WHICH HE WILL CONSIDER IN NO  
WAY DIMINISHED BY HIS MOVE TOWARD NORMAL RELATIONS WITH  
MPLA REGIME.STEIGMAN

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## Message Attributes

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